

Testimony for Public Hearing
Education Committee

March 12, 2014

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SUPPORT: HB-5078 — AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Honorable Members of the Education Committee,

As a parent of an elementary school student, I would like to express my opposition to the implementation of the Common Core Standards into our education system.

I find it appalling that we are accepting these standards of education which are in no way developed by experts in the field. Contrary to popular belief, the Math and English standards were written by people who have no teaching experience whatsoever. Would we accept a protocol for an intricate cardiac procedure that was written by someone who has no cardiology experience at all? Why would we accept a curriculum such as this to educate our children? Our curriculum should be written by our local Boards of Education for our students. Education should not take a “one size fits all” national standard. These Common Core Standards are setting our children up for failure, not success.

It is a known fact that education experts believe the Common Core Math standards to be inferior. These standards will not prepare students to the appropriate level necessary to succeed in the STEM fields. The leading writer for the math standards has admitted “If you want to take calculus your freshman year in college, you will need to take more mathematics than is in the Common Core.”¹ Prior to Common Core, calculus was taught in high school; this is no longer true with the adoption of these standards. With the continued growth and demand of jobs in the science and technology fields, why are we taking away the tools necessary to properly prepare our students for success in college? I realize that not all students may need such high levels of math in their chosen fields, but we should not be removing their choice to be properly prepared for college. We should not be “dumbing down” our standards, as the experts put it, just to pass a standardized test when our children are capable of so much more.

As parents, we should have a right to decide if Common Core should be implemented in our schools. We were all left in the dark about these standards until they were already adopted and put into place. I strongly believe that the Common Core Standards Initiative should be reconsidered. The local Boards of Education should be responsible for a curriculum which is properly tailored to their individual community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Linda Weisheit, RPh

¹ Jason Zimba, writer of the Common Core Math standards, as quoted by education expert Dr. Sandra Stotsky in *The Wall Street Journal* January 2, 2014.